

KIM'S

ORNER

ETVC and the Gay Community

In 1986, eight members of ETVC attended the Empress and Emperor Coronation in San Francisco. We were all very impressed and wanted to attend more gay community functions. Since then our members have attended coronations and closet balls, been active participants in the Gay Freedom Day Parade, helped at five gay community events as coat check girls, sponsored a very successful AIDS benefit that raised \$700 for the Aids Foundation, had an ETVC member on the Imperial Court and, best of all, seen the election of our own Tina Tanner as Empress XXII of San Francisco—a very prestigious position within the gay community.

We've had glorious moments with the gay community and we've had lots of fun too.

At this year's coronation of Empress Pat Montclair and Emperor Jerry Coletti, some 23 ETVC members attended and 6 ETVC members were introduced to the over 1200 people attending the event. Obviously, we are very supportive of the gay community.

What do we get from the gay community?

The first time we asked for help was for our fourth Cotillion at the Slovenian Hall. ETVC needed help obtaining liability insurance and setting up a bar. What did the gay community do for ETVC? They helped save ETVC over \$400 in liability insurance costs and got our liquor license request zipped through city hall in one day. Tatiana, the world's tallest drag queen, volunteered to tend bar for free. The liquor came from a local gay bar. At this year's Cotillion, both our emcees, a good portion of the outside talent, and our bartender came from the gay community at no cost. We also had all of the candidates for Empress and Emperor for this year's contest in attendance.

What have we learned from the gay community?

We've learned how to become a well-organized gender community and that someone's sexual orientation isn't important. We learn that working together is an everyday concern and that working together we can really accomplish great things.

Most of all we discover that the people we work with in the gay community are caring, and concerned, people who are not afraid to be who they are. That alone is a great lesson.

I'm a TV and very, very proud to be actively involved with the gay community and I invite all of you to share the good times at gay community events.

Addendum: The ETVC raffle at the Chez during the IFGE convention party raised \$171 for Open Hand, a support charity for the gay community. Let's keep up the good work!

IFGE '89 CONVENTION — LARGEST YET!



ETVC Planning Pays Off by Donna

From an ETVC perspective, the 1989 IFGE Convention was a huge success as more than 60 of our members donated their time and energy to make sure the attendees had a good time.

IFGE executive director Merissa Sherrill Lynn commented that "ETVC has set a standard by which future host groups will be measured."

San Francisco was a very warm hostess to the more than 200 people from the US and Canada who came to the convention. The weather was crystal clear for the Bay Cruise and the participants on the Chinatown Dinner Tour were awed at unparalleled views of the city from both Treasure Island and Twin Peaks. Some compromises in wardrobe were required, since most of us planned on cooler weather, but no one seemed to really mind. Besides, it was a good excuse to do some shopping.

The week was an opportunity to see old friends again and to get to know new ones. It was a chance to meet the leaders of our community and to converse with the few professionals who really understand gender issues. It was a time to exchange ideas with other groups and to learn more about ourselves.

The convention program was excellent, with something for everyone. ETVC hosted many of the panels and participated in most of the others. Sister Mary Elizabeth was a welcome surprise at the TS program on Thursday. Some of the panels could have gone longer, but there is only so much that can be done in one week.

ETVC's part in the convention was the culmination of 18 months of planning by Ginny's IFGE committee. It was a lot of work, but it definitely brought us closer together as a group. Ginny's efforts were recognized when Tara Tenille presented her with a "Night on the Town", complete with limo, a gift from ETVC members. Passing Fashions and Continental Wigs also acknowledged Ginny's contributions with gifts from their shops.

There are so many people who should be thanked for their efforts. Unfortunately, space doesn't permit it, so I'll just say, "You know who you are, and now the gender world knows who we are."

ETVC, once again, presented itself as the best gender support group in the West (maybe farther). Sandra summed up the ETVC motto of always having fun when she said, "I had a blast!"

Editor's Notes by Cindy

This is an exciting time to be a transvestite.

Historic issues face our community and how we resolve them, or fail to, will likely determine whether we leave the closet forever or continue in shadows.

Obviously, one of our most critical needs is "legitimizing" cross-dressers as a genuine sexual minority who are as worthy of the full protections of the law as gays or lesbians.

Real political action is rare in our community, but not unheard of. In Seattle the Emerald City club has taken direct political action to win official recognition of transvestites and transsexuals. Now legally defined as sexual minorities, TVs and TSs in that city now have the same legal protections against discrimination in housing and public accommodations as gays and lesbians. (Read more about this on page 9.)

Seattle's great achievements didn't happen by magic. It took the hard work and persistence of a few people to gain this victory. Younger members may not remember, but it wasn't long ago that crossdressing in public was against the law in most cities.

ETVC has just pulled a major public relations coup with the recent series by KTVU reporter Betty Ann Bruno. If you haven't seen it be sure to beg, borrow or steal a copy of the tape of this most honest and accurate portrayal of transvestism.

Publicity like this is politics, too. The more that people understand that cross-dressing is neither a threat nor some bizarre aberration, the more likely that politicians will listen to us when we have an issue to present.

Many of us cannot go on television or lobby politicians, but that doesn't mean we cannot do our little bit to move the cause along.

Don't acquiesce when you hear someone make a nasty or ignorant remark about crossdressers. Challenge them on it. Write to movie and television producers and to newspapers when they produce slanted, biased or inaccurate descriptions of us. We love to have fun, but we should never allow anyone to make fun of us.

Finally, there is no excuse for anyone in ETVC (no matter how closeted) to remain uninvolved in this great organization. ETVC gives all of us plenty and asks almost nothing in return.

A great opportunity to give something back will take place on May 25 when your organization will again be nominating and electing officers. Get involved either as a candidate or as an informed member. Ask the nominees questions, find out about their ideas and express yours!

Finally, and you'll be hearing more about this, we need your skills now more than ever. Whether you are a professional, in the trades, arts or business, we need your expertise and help. You don't have to go public to help out!

Only we can bring about change and acceptance. No one else is going to do it.

PURCHASE YOUR OWN PERSONAL LIBRARY

BODYSHOCK: The Truth About Changing Sex by Liz Hodgkinson - \$18.00

"COUNSELING THE TRANSSEXUAL" by John Money & Paul Walker - TBA

"GENDER NETWORKER" newsletter (two 1988 issues) by Rupert Raj - \$6.66

IN SEARCH OF EVE: Transsexual Rites of Passage by Anne Bolin - \$18.00

"STANDARDS OF CARE" - Harry Benjamin Int'l Gender Dys.Assoc - \$5.00

THE UNINVITED DILEMMA: A Question of Gender by Kim Stuart - \$15.00

T.U.D. RESEARCH SUPPLEMENT - \$15.00

*Prices are in U.S. funds. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

GENDER WORKER, Box 1224, Station A,
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Rhyming poems and free verse wanted for upcoming anthology of TS, TV & TG verse. Don't miss your chance to express yourself in print! (To be published in 1989). Please specify credit line and gender status. Send to GENDER WORKER, Box 1224, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1G7



ETVC is a non-sexual, membership based organization with the purpose of serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-challenged people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services.

For details about ETVC programs, membership, newsletter subscriptions, and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

O F F I C E R S

Co-ordinator	Kim
Secretary	Donna
Treasurer	Nancy Ann
Outreach	Evelyn & Thalia
Social	Martina & Susan

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 3/31/89)	384
1987 Membership	304
New members this year	153

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance (as of 3/31/89)	\$4,378.28
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The ETVC Newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Newsletter contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC.

Other organizations may reprint or reproduce portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor:	Cindy
Design & Layout:	Gloria
Calendar:	Kim & Donna
Production:	Donna
Contributors:	Julie Trudi
	Joanne Glinda
	Cindy Thalia
	Renee Kim
	Jane Martina
	Donna Joan

A D R A T E S

	per issue	per year
Business Card	\$10	\$50
4" x 5"	\$25	\$125
8" x 5"	\$40	\$200
8" x 10"	\$80	\$400

P E R S O N A L A D S

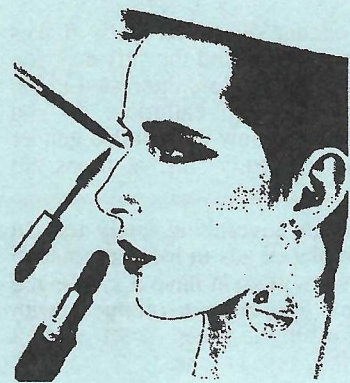
ETVC will accept personal ads from ETVC members at the rate of \$1 per 3 lines. We will not accept ads with a purely sexual objective.

Send ad copy and a check for the appropriate amount to: ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Ad Deadlines are the first weekend of the month of publication (June, August, October, December, February, April).

C O R R E C T I O N

In our last edition we neglected to credit Denise as photographer for the ETVC Cotillion. Sorry about that!



Makeup Session

Don't miss this very special mid-month event at the Chez Mollet which will feature ETVC's good friend Louise Carroll, of Continental Wigs in San Rafael, who will do makeup sessions with a few lucky people who attend this event. The fun starts at 8 p.m. on Wed., May 10.

\$3 Members/guests.

Election Night/Anniversary

Calling all executive types, career girls and all who wish to have a voice in ETVC affairs! This is perhaps the most important ETVC event of the year because this is the time when our members have the opportunity to decide what kind of organization they really want. Our seventh anniversary party on May 25, features the election of all ETVC officers and committee chairpersons and nominations do not close until the last minute. Give something back to YOUR club by running for office and voting.

Naturally, it won't be all business since a fabulous LINGERIE FASHION SHOW is also planned. Continental Wigs and Passing Fashions will be providing wigs and fashions for the show. May 25, 8 p.m., the Chez Mollet. \$3 members/\$5 guests.



Couples Group

The couples group will be meeting again on May 18 and June 15. The group is alive and well and having fun at its buffet dinners in the lovely homes of our friends around the Bay Area. Come and be a part of another party just for you and your loved one. To find out more, call Ginny at 664-1499.

ETVC/RGA Rap Group

The most exciting rap group in the Bay Area meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the New Community of Faith Church in San Jose. The address is 6350 Rainbow Drive in San Jose. The next two meetings will be on Monday, May 8 and Monday, June 12 from 8-10 p.m. There are only two rules: no one dominates the discussion and no discussing the rap group outside the group. If you know the way to San Jose, join us. If not contact Kim (408) 243-3919 or Martina at (408) 984-5619 for more information.

**Looking for fun and excitement
in your crossdressed life?
Join the social committee!
Contact Martina at (408) 984-5619
or Susan at (415) 763-5247**

Foundations and Lingerie



Otto Titzler invented it, some of us believe that Howard Hughes perfected it and Jane Russell made a career of it. Just for the fun of it don't miss ETVC's special foundation and lingerie show at the Chez on Saturday, June 10. This event follows the fourth annual "Lacing Table" by Marcia, a symposium on corsets and similar garments one can use to feminize your

shape which begins at 2 p.m. at the Chez Mollet. So come and Play, Tex. This event is just \$3 for members and guests. The foundation and lingerie show begins at 5 p.m. and while the charge hasn't been set yet Martina crosses her heart and swears it will be cheap.

Prom Night

ETVC sets the stage for the night of your life...Prom '89! Just what you've always wanted, party perfection in every way! Put zing into spring! This year, dress with flash and panache on your special night. Dance the night away in prom-perfect pastels, fresh-picked finery, fired up florals or layers of lace. The scent of romantic perfume wafts around you. The Chez will look enchanted with sparkling, glittering decorations. The rollicking strains of your favorite music swirl around you. Come join our fashion parade or just help us select our prom queen. Thursday, June 29, 1989, 8 p.m., at the Chez Mollet. \$5 members, \$8 guests.

SOS

The Significant Other Support Group wants to invite all Significant Others to attend our SOS group meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons but are themselves not a TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to come to these meetings, particularly if the SO feels they need support from their peers in dealing with their feelings about the TV/TS in their lives. It is important to emphasize that all meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. This is to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees will feel secure enough to really be able to share and talk about their feelings. The SOS group meets the second Thursday of each month from 8 to 10 p.m. in the homes of members. You are all welcome with open arms. Next meetings are May 11 and June 8. For more information call Ginny at 664-1499.

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Information
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Andy Warhol said that in the future everyone would be famous for 15 minutes. A few of us got a slight hint of what that might be like when KTVU, Channel 2, ran the three-part feature series on crossdressing earlier this month. Kim, Kate, Michelle, Kristyn, Charlotte, their families and myself along with Millie Brown and, of course, the Miss ETVC contestants, got a few seconds of prime time to show and tell the public about crossdressing. The series was hosted by Betty Ann Bruno, who covered the Cotillion last January, and I think she was sensible, sensitive and worked hard to show us in a good light. As with anything directed to a large general audience, the information was pretty basic and there wasn't time to really explore our whole subculture. But it was a great primer and I am especially grateful to Sandy and Linda - Kristyn and Charlotte's respective wives - for their candid comments and wonderful support. I think their presence was particularly important for better public understanding of our of our lives - viewers could see how we live with others and how we are not exotic creatures who only exist in panels on Donahue. I think we all could write to both Betty Ann Bruno and her station manager to thank them and comment on the show. (Write to Betty Ann Bruno, Station Manager, Kevin O'Brian, or News Director, Fred Zehuder at KTVU Television, #2 Jack London Square, Oakland, CA 94607)

The series ran during the IFGE convention... strange coincidence, no? The convention really was a valiant effort by all the ETVC members who put in the 110 percent that was needed to make it work as well as it did. I was only there for one day but it seemed that ETVC was everywhere - members running presentations, on panels, staffing the registration, etc. Good Show!

Even with the convention, many other projects have continued. For example, San Francisco State has had a virtual TV invasion in the last couple of months. Martina, Melissa and I delighted John DeCecco's Human Sexuality class with our wit, charm and for one brief moment, outrageousness. Karen Hossfeld's Social Aspects of Sexuality class was especially attentive when Charlotte, Ron, Evelyn and I spent two hours with them. Professor Hossfeld said afterward that the level of class participation was the highest she had seen and that we had elicited questions and comments from class members who usually didn't participate at all. I returned to SF State with Ron, Melissa and Susan for Prof. Hossfeld's other class - Sex Roles and Society. Again, the class was lively, challenging and mostly quite supportive. In contrast to John DeCecco's wide ranging class, the two sociology classes were much more focused. The students were interested in how we get along in society and how we accept, reject or perhaps help loosen up traditional gender

roles. Answering some of the students' questions really makes you think about the assumptions you make and the "givens" you take for granted. These students were much less interested in the personal "How do you feel?" and "Which bathroom do you use?" questions. They wanted to find out how we handled gender conflicts with society's expectations. Heady stuff at times but lots of fun, too.

We've been reaching people through advertising lately too. In the last couple of months we have placed ads in local alternative papers and we will soon have a systematic ad campaign. We hope to connect with those of us still in the "deep closet" and let them know they aren't alone.

Coming up is our most public appearance - the Gay Freedom Day Parade and celebration. Last year was wildly successful with lots of public contact and lots of fun, too. There is nothing quite like

marching down Market Street in the midst of a cheery, supportive crowd of thousands. The outpourings of support and affection are amazing. And little things like the woman last year who shouted "You're wearing my skirt and it looks better on you!" to me and waved. She was wearing the matching top to my skirt and seemed so thrilled at the coincidence. There's a serious side too. We hand out information and occasionally have pretty deep conversations with people we encounter at the booth. There is plenty of room for everyone who wants to march, staff the booth or help arrange things. Nancy Ann and Barbie are coordinating this year's parade appearance. Talk to them and find out about being a parade monitor - it's easy, or helping to set up and staff the booth. I hope we can double our last year's presence. Ask anyone who was there and I'm sure they'd say, "Do it!"

Elections are upon us. I can't quite believe I've been outreach co-chair this long. It seems like only a few weeks ago when I offered to try it and see what I could do. I've learned a lot about myself, a lot about making an organization work, and I've met many more people than I ever could have any other way. I've become, by my own choice, much more "public" and have had no bad experiences for it. Now being this open is not part of the responsibility at all. Each outreach co-chair develops the office in ways they feel they can serve best. I happen to enjoy public performance and feel that's my contribution. Another co-chair may be much better at developing our network with helping professions, or another may be great at getting articles about us written for magazines or newspapers. There's plenty to do and it depends on the willingness and talents available. Don't be shy, you may have more to contribute than you think. Remember, somehow someone got the word out so you found ETVC. Now it's your turn to help get the word out!

**Next Outreach Meetings:
May 1st-Mountain View
June 5th -Oakland
Call Evelyn-(415) 964-3655 or
Thalia-(415) 465-5701
for more information.**

ETVC offers the following informational listings:

Video Library	Free
Article Library	\$1.00
International Support Group Directory	\$2.00

To order please send a check or money order with your name and address to:

ETVC-Outreach Committee
PO Box 6486
San Francisco, CA 94101.

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for May & June



DATE	WHO	WHAT	TIME	WHERE	FOR INFORMATION
MAY					
1	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Mountain View	(415) 964-3655
2	.....	Dressing Up	7 - 9 PM	Oakland	(415) 893-0123
3	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
5	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
6	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 570-5161
8	ETVC/RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8 - 10 PM	San Jose	(408) 243-3919
9	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts at 7:30 PM	Oakland	(408) 984-5619
10	ETVC	Makeup by Louise	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(408) 984-5619
11	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8 - 10 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
12	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
17	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
18	ETVC	Couples Social	Meets at 8 PM	Richmond	(415) 664-1499
19	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
20	.....	Closet Ball	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
25	ETVC	ETVC Anniversary Party	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 664-1499
26	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
27	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916) 362-8131
JUNE					
2	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
3	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Oakland	(415) 834-1185
5	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Oakland	(415) 465-5701
6	.....	Dressing Up	7 - 9 PM	Oakland	(415) 893-0123
7	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
8	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Palo Alto	(415) 664-1499
9	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
10	ETVC	Fashion Show	Starts at 5 PM	Chez Mollet	(408) 984-5619
11	ETVC	3rd Goal Setting Session	1 - 5 PM	Oakland	(415) 763-5247
12	ETVC/RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8 - 10 PM	San Jose	(408) 243-3919
13	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts at 7:30 PM	Oakland	(408) 984-5619
15	ETVC	Couples Social	Meets at 8 PM	Berkeley	(415) 664-1499
16	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
17	.....	Gay Freedom Day	10 AM - 5 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
21	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
24	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916) 362-8131
25	.....	Gay Freedom Day Parade	9 AM - 4 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
29	ETVC	Prom Night	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 664-1499
30	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling-oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, and last Friday of the month at 8:00 PM. The Center is located at 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call (415) 841-6224 for more information.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA) meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 8:00 PM at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. RGA can be contacted by writing: Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170.

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) meets at 7PM on the fourth Saturday of each month upstairs at the Town & Country Inn's restaurant 2060 Auburn Blvd. Sacramento; call (916) 441-8045 for directions. Write Jennifer Richards, PO Box 417701, Sacramento, CA 95841 for more information.

The Tenderloin Self Help Centre meets every Wednesday from 4-6 PM at 191 Golden Gate (at Leavenworth), San Francisco, CA. This is a project of the Central City Community Hospitality House funded by the Community Mental Health Services. Call (415) 554-0518 for details.

As I was sailing out the door to go to work, my husband asked me if I was doing anything later that day. Was I busy? Hmmm, I wondered, what does he want?

"Do you think you could spend a few minutes jotting down your ideas about the convention?"

"The convention! Oh, I guess, but I would need some time."

"Oh, but I need it for the newsletter."

"The newsletter! The deadline was last week!"

"Oh, but we still have a little time."

A little time - what is a little time! How can I possibly come up with something due yesterday that could possibly describe my feelings about the convention. How can I find the right words to describe my emotions after meeting such wonderful people from all over the country. Seattle, Portland, New York, Houston, Carson City - you name it! What a terrific group! Smiling, friendly faces everywhere. And "they" call crossdressing a disorder. I didn't see disorder anywhere. I saw humor, generosity, helpfulness; I saw optimism; I saw hope.

Oh, I know there were problems. What convention doesn't have them? The preparation and planning was tremendous, and I hope the committee members know how much they are appreciated. I only wish that I could have thanked everyone responsible.

The weather was warm, but so were our feelings. The desk help may have left a bit to be desired, but what a splendid hotel! What magnificence and grandeur! The Convention committees deserve much credit for selecting such an elegant setting for its meetings and socials. The food was good and the hotel maids and bell hops friendly and willing to help.

To me, as a significant other, the convention was a wonderful success!

I was not able to attend for the full week, but was able to come over for the couples' social on Tuesday afternoon. The San Franciscan Hotel is only a few steps away from the BART station and within minutes, I was transported back in time, as the hotel maintains the elegance and beauty of a bygone era.

In a pleasant room on the Mezzanine, several couples met and chatted together for a few hours. Everyone was excited about being together. Couples from Texas, New York, and the Bay Area became instant friends. The wives chatted amiably, while their spouses complimented each other's taste in dress. The conversation was intelligent and exciting. I was sad when it was over and I had to BART-it back to the East Bay and reality. But I was due to return later that week. While riding back, I thought how sweet and kind everyone was. Not a patronizing, condescending one in the bunch!



JOSE SARRIA by Joan Sheldon

Jose Sarria, an honored guest speaker to the IFGE Convention, was whisked away from the awards banquet to officiate at the Invocation of the 25th, Emperor and Empress of San Francisco. As the Widow Norton, and the first Empress of San Francisco, Jose is frequently called upon for such Ceremonial duties. As a kind gesture, she invited Nancy Ann, and myself to accompany her to the invocation. While traveling to and from that gala affair we were afforded a rare opportunity to learn what a marvelous person Jose is, and to recognize how much she has contributed to, and achieved for, the Gay Community of San Francisco.

To see her presiding in such regal splendor, and command such respect and devotion from her subjects was truly a delightful experience. The Invocation of the 25th Emperor and Empress of San Francisco was indeed a marvelous sight to behold. I want to thank Jose for his kind invitation, and for providing us the opportunity to observe the results of many years of work and dedication. It was inspiring to see how strong leadership and dedicated people can gain acceptability, through positive action, and their willingness to organize and work together for a common goal. If you were fortunate enough to have heard Jose speak at the convention luncheon, you may have an idea of her many skills, and her dramatic ability to transform ideas into positive action.

On of the highlights of the IFGE convention was the dynamic and entertaining speech by Jose. Her first speech was historical, a she traced her beginning as the Widow Norton, the first Empress of San Francisco, to the coronation of the twenty-fifth Empress, and the development of the Court system to international status. It was philosophical, as she told of the work and

dedication involved in making the gay community, *a community*. Her speech was entertaining as she described the human foibles and interactions, in the confrontation for change. Not only did she have to take on the attitude of the society at large, but she had to fight many powerful political individuals and interests, in both gay and straight society. Most important however, her speech was educational, in that she pointed out to us that we all can achieve a grand purpose in life, if we but set goals, unify, organize, and work together toward a goal.

In the final analysis, The struggle to remove a stigma set by a society on certain individuals, the pursuit for acceptability, must be achieved by individuals. If that action is to be asserted by individuals, the leader, and each individual engaged in that cause, must believe in their cause, and most importantly, they must believe in themselves. Jose Sarria certainly believed in herself, and her cause. She had those great qualities an individual must have, to be able to stand up to society, and proclaim; "I am what I am, and I am proud of what I am". Such determination requires, not only intelligence, but great honesty, tremendous courage, and most of all a terrific sense of humor. The supreme qualities of *character*.

Let us remember the wisdom of the late, Martin Luther King who said, "Let us not judge a person by the color of their skin, but the content of their character." If the content of one's character is the judge of a person's success in life, as it very well should be, Jose Sarria is the greatest success a person could ever hope to be. I know Jose takes life very seriously, but she still sees such great joy and humor in it, and radiates such great love. She has shown us pride in ourselves, and the dignity in being - what we are.

Thank you, Jose.

Finally, the week ended, and I drove over Friday afternoon after work. The hotel was rather empty as most had gone on the Bay Cruise, but I was able to wander around and visit the displays in the Corinthian Room. There was a huge selection of books and articles to choose from, pictures to look at, wigs to try on, etc., and I engaged in conversation with several crossdressers who were delighted to be in San Francisco and were having a marvelous time in spite of the heat.

That night, we went to the Chez Mollet for a prime rib dinner. The evening was spectacular, as always, with good friends, good conversation, and a fashion show for all to enjoy. Leaving the Chez, we took a bus to Finocchio's for their late night show, which, unfortunately, was not as good as I had expected.

The next morning I was part of a "significant others" presentation which was an interesting experience. There were six of us, including Ginny, our moderator. All of us spoke about the various emotions that significant others encounter when finding out her spouse, etc., is a crossdresser. The hour went fast, and we were only able to answer a few questions, when the next activities started.

Three of us wives then went on a shopping tour of San Francisco, where we found the prices to be outrageous, but enjoyed a first-rate lunch at Neiman-Marcus and later an English tea at the King George Hotel. All of us thought perhaps someday we could repeat the experience with our spouses. The three of us talked nonstop all day about our reactions to our husbands, to crossdressing in general, and to problems we had faced and to problems we were still facing. It was nice to "shoot the bull" and talk, talk, talk!

That night, we all attended the Banquet which included several emotional speeches, a presentation to Ariadne Kane, and superb entertainment by Mister Sister. It was very difficult for everyone, knowing that only one day remained before the convention would end and we would be going our separate ways. We were in a fantasy world, that we knew! And how lucky to be surrounded by such a rich group of friends! How fortunate for all of us to have such a rare opportunity to talk with others who have experienced the same emotions and who have encountered the same reactions from a society reluctant to let people "be all that they can be."

Were there problems? Oh yes, for sure. Can you ever get a group of women together without problems! But I will let someone else talk about that. As a significant other, I had a marvelous time and will remember as outstanding the IFGE convention of 1989.



Boy - Girl, did we have a good time! by Joan Sheldon

Any way you slice it, the recent IFGE Convention was indeed a great success. It brought together crossdressers from near and far to engage in business meetings, informative functions, luncheons and dinners and the opportunity to enjoy the many pleasures of San Francisco.

ETVC sponsored events such as exclusive shows at Finocchio's, the cable car and Chinatown tours and, along with IFGE, the Bay Cruise. These are only a few examples of the opportunities for visiting conventioners to really get out and kick up their heels.

Of course, the way most crossdressers were welcomed and accepted shopping downtown in all the great stores added a lot of spice to the convention.

Many enjoyed eating in various restaurants throughout the city, and especially the camaraderie of having a few cocktails and singing together in several of the piano bars. We found, you don't have to be a good singer to have a lot of fun, and laughter is the greatest voice of all.

One night, after singing to Trixie's lovely piano renditions at the Galleon, we were forced to leave because of the archaic curfew laws. So, we ventured to Zims, all-night restaurant, for an early breakfast before returning to the hotel. We were, of course, in a very hearty mood, having a rousing good old time, but no more boisterous than any girl would be after her first high school prom.

Laughter was indeed the theme, as our repartee bounced back and forth between Ginger, Carolyn of Seattle, Dorothy of Vancouver, Cynthia, and myself. Although the restaurant is very busy, even at that early hour, our levity did not seem to interrupt too many of the other patrons.

There was however, an S.F.P.D. sergeant having his breakfast in one of the adjacent booths. Although he glanced at us quite often, it was obvious he was not annoyed, too much, by our jocular activities, and seemed to consider us as just another bunch of guys in dresses (well-dressed, of course). Although it is obvious that most of us present at that time are quite capable of "passing" under some conditions, five girls in Zims, at three o'clock in the morning, is not one of them.

After completing his meal, and leaving to pay his bill, the sergeant approached our table. We greeted him with the theme song from the old Dragnet TV (television) series, "Dum-de-dum-dum", which seemed to be quite appropriate at the time. He greeted us with, "Hi" and a cheery smile and the following statements, which are as accurate as the mellowness of the moment, and my memory will allow. "You know, I've been around this town for a long time, and I thought I'd seen everything, but you guys are really something else. I don't know what you are all on, but whatever it is, I wish they would pass it around. I have never seen people have as much fun, you are really enjoying yourselves. You are happy and are very entertaining. I certainly enjoyed seeing you all so happy and having so much fun. Keep up the good work."

We were all quite taken by the graciousness and sincerity of this kind police officer. It shows how far we have come over the years, to acceptance by the general public and especially the police force. Certainly it proves San Francisco is the place to be—just another guy in a dress.

Just ask Renee...

Dear Renee, Heart in mouth I went to Safeway. Three ragamuffin teenagers followed me about. I could hear them talking about me, then finally one of them came up and point blank asked me. "Are you a man?" I almost died. What to do? Francis

Dear Francis,

Since this is our classic and most commonly shared paranoia, I want to address this question more fully than usual.

First, you can't fool all the people all the time. Some folks are just paying more attention, have their own issues about gender and so are more alert, are psychic or delight in debunking alternate realities, like some sort of self-appointed gender vigilantes. So, there is no way around this question, it only crops up less and less frequently as we mature in our new, ever less tentative roles.

By and large, youngsters deserve honesty, they are learning about themselves and the world and have chose you to teach them some lesson. In a more private situation, a party, a family outing, a nearly-empty store, a restaurant even, I would say proudly tell them your truth, whatever it is: I used to be a man, but not any more. Sometimes I am, sometimes I'm

not. My body is a man's my soul is a woman's. Or, kindly throw the questions back on them: Why, is there something the matter? Is something upsetting you? Treat them with respect and concern. You have a lot to offer, Francis, as a role-model of courage and decorum.

But in a public arena like a supermarket, mall or street, I would advise caution as your questioners could irreparably humiliate you if they chose to be nasty. Ask yourself, how would a manly-looking woman react to such a question, one she has surely had to deal with many times before. With snappish impatience and a self-righteous threat: "I don't know what kind of prank you youngsters are playing, but I've a mind to fetch the store manager right this minute, you should be ashamed of yourselves, harassing a poor woman with such foolishness!" In short, ignore the thrust of their question and turn their behavior, their intrusion of your space into the issue. No matter what, you are their elder and command some respect.

Remember if we want the world to accept and respect us, it is up to us to accept and respect ourselves first, no matter how shaky we feel. Francis, in ten years there will be a crossdresser in every Safeway. You're a pioneer!

Dream Girl by Jane

Me in jewels and sexy dresses, flawless features, flowing tresses. Spiky pumps of patent leather, floor length furs in tropic weather. Gosh it's fun to think of me living in the world of she Being as I wish to seem: both the dreamer and the dream.

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Seattle Club Pushes for Freedom

by Cindy

(Note: this is the first in a series of articles that will spotlight other major TV/TS organizations around the U.S. and the world.)

The path that led to the remarkable achievements of the Emerald City wasn't paved with yellow bricks.

It was determination and persistence that won Seattle's transvestites and transsexuals a status that is unique in the U.S.: their legal recognition as sexual minorities who are protected from discrimination.

Specifically, TVs and TSs are named in a pair of city ordinances that set out prohibitions on discrimination in housing and public accommodations. The ordinances state it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of a person's sexual orientation. Transvestism and transsexuality are included in the city's definition of protected sexual orientations.

This stunning accomplishment, which has gone little noticed outside the Northwest, was primarily the work of Janice Van Cleve, editor of the Emerald City News and author of a history of the club, who recently was interviewed by the ETVC Newsletter.

ETVC: How did Emerald City get started?

VAN CLEVE: It was founded in 1983, but before it came along TVs were meeting informally, like in other cities...That was also the year I first came out.

ETVC: In your history of the club, you write that one of the first steps to getting organized and out of the closet was to find public places to meet. Why was that important?

VAN CLEVE: I didn't like the sneaking around and I hate the hyper-security of the closet. I wanted us to be like any other citizens and not be afraid of doing what we wanted to.

So I started visiting restaurants and developing a vendor inquiry sheet...The key question was: "Do you have a management policy that discriminates against transvestite customers?" Most, when they heard "discriminate" said, "Oh no!", but a few did refuse our business. Still by doing it this way there were no surprises for anybody.

ETVC: Apparently, once the ball got rolling it didn't take long to develop a list of friendly restaurants.

VAN CLEVE: It was like doing cold (sales) calls, just make the calls and things can happen if you're not too scared to try. It didn't take too long to develop a good vendor list and we began booking a different place every month. Pretty soon the vendors began to recognize us...we always pay our bills and we always tip well.

BIRTHDAY GIRLS (and guys)!

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June

Charleste, Charlotte H., Debbie A., Dianne S., Elfrieda, Ginny, Guy A., Jo Anne H., Jo Anne O., Jodie, Joyce Z., Juanita, Julia, Kathy S., Linda G., Lisa M., Lisa P., Lorraine R., Lynne J., Martina, Melissa, Nalini, Pamela, Rose, Rose Ann, Sheila M., Sylvia, Tiffany S.

ETVC: You go into all kinds of restaurants for your get-togethers, how do the other customers react when they see 15 or more transvestites in the place?

VAN CLEVE: Most don't react at all. Actually a lot of how people react to you has to do with how you react to them.

ETVC: How did you get involved in political action?

VAN CLEVE: We were having a potluck at a motel in Feb. 1985, this was a place we'd booked before, but a new landlady was on duty and she evicted us and threatened to call the police. We got our money back but I was really stewed about it and I decided we were not going to ever go through that again.

I went to the city Human Rights Department and filed suit against the motel for discrimination. We didn't want to punish anyone, what we wanted was an official document recognizing our rights.

The department asked their legal department for a definition of transvestite rights and the city lawyers said in July 1985 that we were a legitimate sexual minority in Legal Opinion #10. This put us in the same category as gays legally and so that made this the first legal document in the U.S. recognizing transvestites and transsexuals as legitimate minorities protected from discrimination.

ETVC: But that was just a legal opinion, not an ordinance.

VAN CLEVE: Yes, but meanwhile the city council was considering rewriting the open housing ordinance and now we had some leverage to be included as a protected sexual minority. I lobbied everyone on the council for nine months.

(The hard work paid off in June, 1986 when the city council did add TVs and TSs to the ordinance and passed it. Then in September, 1987 they passed the open accommodations ordinance which again named TVs and TSs as sexual minorities protected from discrimination.)

ETVC: What did these successes do for the people in Emerald City?

VAN CLEVE: It just caused a tremendous feeling of pride and gave new respectability to all of our sisters. We weren't in kindergarten any more. It just boosted morale and participation like nothing else could.

The Emerald City club boasts about 100 members and sponsors three monthly events: a private members meeting, a social event in a public restaurant, and a continuing education seminar. Membership is open to all but, like most TV/TS organizations, is primarily heterosexual. For more information, call 206-363-8415 or write to Emerald City, P.O. Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103.



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Letters

Don't allow anyone at ETVC to be ridiculed

I've been to ETVC only a few times and I dress in women's clothing that is so androgynous, with no false padding, that on the street I could pass as a man dressed as a man. Everyone else wears nylons and makeup, yet many feminist women might wear what I wore, and for me it is the best way to begin to get in touch with myself.

I was timidly drifting over toward a group of people, feeling slightly out of place as usual, when I heard a male voice shout, "What's the matter, your bra on backwards?" I was hurt. I am so out of touch with my feelings I didn't realize how much I was hurt until I started crying about it the following morning. The last thing I need is to be told there is something the matter with me, or that I don't dress the way I'm supposed to. I am sincere in trying to express femininity in myself, but I don't think it is best measured by bra size.

I want to feel comfortable behaving like a woman before I dress aggressively like one. Others apparently like to dress without a thought to behavior. They would say I should ignore it, but how other people feel and relate to me is important to me. One of my motivations for crossdressing is to become more nurturing and empathetic, but many examples I see at ETVC encourage the opposite.

Please don't allow anyone at ETVC to be ridiculed or teased-- especially not

because of how that person dresses. I hope most of you will intervene when it happens by calling the speaker's attention to it. Ron

The poem by Jane brought tears to my eyes

Simply a comment about your ETVC Newsletter and the poem "The Box" in your Nov.-Dec. issue:

I found your newsletter informative and tasteful, I look forward to more issues. The poem by Jane: gosh how I really related to it, brought tears to my eyes. I relate my development much like that of a caterpillar, spending too much time in the cocoon stage, and when finally coming out feeling so free, alive, and natural what a beautiful feeling. Why did I hide so long? Thanks, Glenda

Willingness to work together

On Saturday, March 11, I had the pleasure of facilitating the first planning session for ETVC. I say "pleasure" because I was impressed that fourteen people attended. All the major interests--TVs, TSs, TGs, spouses--were represented. And there was a camaraderie, positive attitude, and willingness to work together.

Member participation was a key concern not only for these meetings, but of the future that is taking shape. It is absolutely vital for more of you to step forward and keep ETVC moving. Janelle (formerly Karin)

Untitled by Joanne

I was a sweet and loving girl,
And asked not much from life.
A chance to grow in beauty,
Away from storm and strife.
I gladly helped with household chores,
My room was always neat.
A pretty dress with matching shoes,
Would make my life replete.
I'd save my pennies just to buy
A lipstick, bright and red.
I'd hide it deep down in a drawer
Or underneath my bed.
My parents did not understand
My wish to be a beauty.
All I ever heard from them,
Was Hell or Christian duty.
I wondered why the God above
Had made me as He did.
The things that I loved most in life
Were things I always hid.
A frilly pair of panties,
A shiny nylon slip
A gorgeous satin nightie,
That clung across my hip.
I never knew why these were wrong.
They did not hurt a soul.
To be a pretty school girl,
Seemed such a natural goal.
But parents saw it different,
They fought against my joy.
Their reason was so simple,
Because I was a boy.
Into adulthood I have grown
On into middle years.
And still this restless longing
Consistently appears.
I have my secret wardrobe,
That I will always cherish.
Yet will I wear it on the street
Some time before I perish?

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Reprinted from Renaissance News

(Ed. Note: Modeling itself after ETVC, the Renaissance Club in the Philadelphia area has become one of the fastest growing and largest TV/TS groups in the nation.)

For some time now there has been controversy in the transgender community regarding open membership within local groups. Some organizations feel that it is proper to restrict their membership to certain elements of the community and exclude others based on type of transgender behavior or sexual preference. Renaissance among other groups allows membership to any person with an interest in transgendered behavior, no matter what basis that interest has.

From the time when Renaissance was a nameless idea being discussed by her founders, there was never a question of who we would allow to join. We are an organization committed to educating the public, helping professionals, and ourselves in the subject of transgendered behavior. We are not a social organization, although naturally, members do socialize among themselves. Since our mission is service, we consider

our members social and sex lives to be their own business.

In the year and a half that Renaissance has been in existence, our membership has grown to over 230. Among them are straight, gay and bisexual crossdressers, transgenderists, transsexuals, admirers and a number of people who prefer not to or don't know how to label themselves. We welcome them all because we have found that while we need to be among our own kind for support, it is the people unlike ourselves who have the most to teach us.

Open membership does not mean "anything goes." I have seen people arrive for a Renaissance meeting expecting some sort of orgy. When they see that what they have found is a business and informational meeting, one of two things happen: A. They pick up the cues from the others present and behave with proper decorum, or B. They get bored and leave.

While all are welcome at our meetings, were someone to forget how to behave as a lady or a gentleman, he or she would promptly be shown the door. It is significant, however, that after a year and a half of meetings with attendance

running between seventy and ninety for the past six months, we have never had to exercise that option. To those organizations that do discriminate based on sexual preference, I can only point to our experience and wonder what frightens them so.

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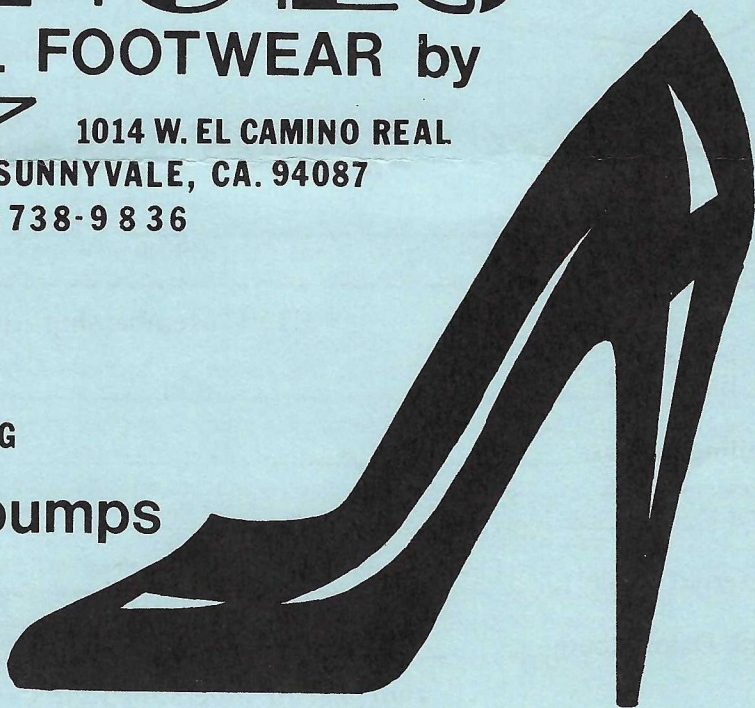
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Grumpy Glinda's Gripes by Glinda

The recent ETVC socials have been delights, but I have heard grumbling on a few subjects:

Pick-ups

As many have noticed, we have some absolutely gorgeous new members and some older members who really have their act together, finally. ETVC advertises widely these days and all sorts of people walk in, often just to look. A very few see just a room full of potential pick-ups, and move in. (Hey guys, it doesn't help if you're drunk.) Well, this isn't the Black Rose, but neither is it Tri-Ess. Sometimes it's fun to flirt, after all the work of dressing. We're all adults here and learned long ago what to do, even if from the other side. If you're not interested, just say so. Or walk away or tell him to find Glinda, in a miniskirt, dark glasses and a very stern expression. I'll fix his clock.

Restrooms, again

Quite a few of our significant others note that the ladies restroom at the Chez becomes a sodden mess as the night goes on. Look people, if you have to stand up, then be more accurate, otherwise, sit down. In either event, leave the room cleaner than when you came in. If that's impossible, try the Men's room. It's big, bright and empty on ETVC nights.

Missing persons

ETVC has over 360 members, yet only 25 people came to six of the last eight socials. Added to them were occasionals and guests who brought average attendance to 60 or 70. So where is everybody else? Obviously many of our members join for the newsletter or some other reason and never come to the socials. We'd really love to meet you!

Look friends, the Chez is in a quiet, dark area. You could wear a hat and fake beard. Come after 10, sit at the bar up front. You needn't dress. Come meet a few people and you may decide to be more active in the club.

Ed. Note: Glinda is the nomme de plume of a person with a nomme de femme who is a long time ETVC member and wants to occasionally be rude without losing valued friends. Complaints to the newsletter probably won't reach her.

Gender Event Hotline

Our social co-chairwoman, Martina, has installed a special tape on her answering machine that will tell you what's going on this week in the gender community. Call (408) 984-5619 and listen.

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